



MEDIA RELEASE

March 30, 2011

Teeswater Co-operative Gains Access to National Retail Accounts

Teeswater, ON. The Ontario Dairy Goat Co-operative (ODGC) is pleased to announce the acquisition of Mornington Heritage Cheese and Dairy Co-op of Millbank, Ontario. The acquisition allows ODGC, a broker of raw goat milk, to realize its business goal of bringing ODGC members closer to the consumer as it takes on responsibility for processing goat milk cheese in the form of cheddar, marble and curd, as well as goat milk butter and fluid goat milk.

ODGC Chairman, Anthony Sjaarda of Wyoming claims, “this is a great move for our dairy goat co-operative as it gives ODGC access to regional, provincial as well as national retail markets through the Mornington brand of cheeses, butter and fluid milk”. Sjaarda added, “this access is also beneficial for the marketing and distribution of the new dairy goat products ODGC has had in development for the past year.”

“ODGC has huge experience and growth in the transportation and brokering of goat milk – two of the major complexities in the food chain. With its purchase of Mornington, ODGC has created an organization with an enhanced ability to make that coveted farmer-to-consumer connection by combining the strengths of the two dairy goat organizations,” stated Mornington Chairman, Bob Reid of Punkydoodles Corners, near Shakespeare.

“The economic impact of this acquisition is specifically good news for South Bruce,” adds Lisa Thompson, general manager of ODGC, “we look forward to bringing the cheese processing to Pine River Cheese when it is up and running again, while the cut and wrap element of the business will be a co-packing venture with Mildmay Cheese Haus.”

ODGC incorporated in November 2002 with thirteen members from Huron, Bruce, Grey and Wellington Counties. In 2004 the co-operative hired its first staff person, general manager Lisa Thompson and since then the co-operative has grown into a multi-million dollar initiative with 119 members throughout Ontario. The co-operative is based in Teeswater and generates employment for 16 local people. By brokering raw goat milk to cheese processors in Ontario and Quebec, in addition to processing its own Mornington brand products, ODGC plans to move 17 million litres of goat milk on behalf of its membership in 2011.

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